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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/976,876	10/12/2001	Anthony Rodrigo	NOKM.014PA	2171

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Hollingsworth & Funk, LLC
Suite 125
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EXAMINER

RUDY, ANDREW J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3687

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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03/24/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/976,876	Applicant(s) RODRIGO, ANTHONY	
	Examiner Andrew Joseph Rudy	Art Unit 3687	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-19,24-59 and 61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2, 25-59 and 61 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-19 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1, 2, 4-19 and 24 in the reply filed on December 26, 2007 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that there is not serious burden upon the examiner and the examiner has not met the burden required by the MPEP. This is not found persuasive because a divergent search would be required to search the different groups that are not deemed obvious. The Applicant may affirmatively state that all the groups are obvious variant of one another if so desired.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 25-59 and 61 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on December 26, 2007.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claims 1, 2, 4-24 and 41-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginzboorg et al., US 6,047,051.

Ginzboorg discloses, e.g. Figs. 1-10, an independent billing server between an Internet service provider, e.g. Fig. 9b, S3, and nine different types of charging elements, e.g. charging messages, network elements, e.g. . Ginzboorg does not disclose the term bridge modules. However, Official Notice is taken that bridge modules have been common knowledge within the processing art. To have provides such for Ginzboorg would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. With regards to rules, the processor of Ginzboorg would inherently provide data processing rules in order to sift through any processing that is carried out. It is noted intended use claim language, e.g. for managing, capable of, is given little if any patentable weight in juxtaposition to positively recited claim language, e.g. coupling, a processor.

Applicant's December 26, 2007 REMARKS have been reviewed, but are not convincing. Applicant's REMARKS do not fully coincide with the claim language. Applicant argues terms that are not supported by the claim language. As such, it is not clear what specifically Applicant is arguing. Clarification of these REMARKS in juxtaposition with the claim language is required.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Joseph Rudy whose telephone number is 571-272-6789. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Gart can be reached on 571-272-3955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Andrew Joseph Rudy/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3687